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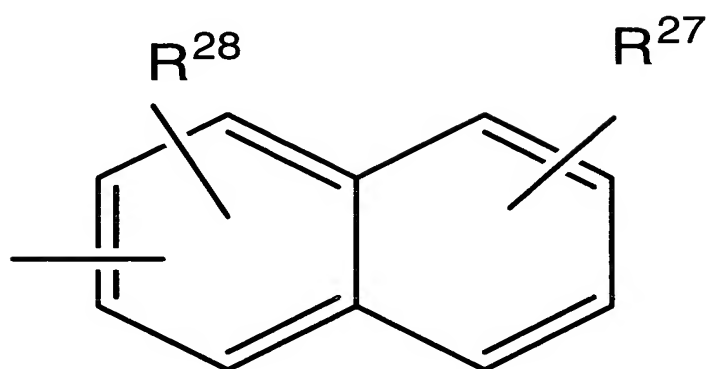
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R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen, or

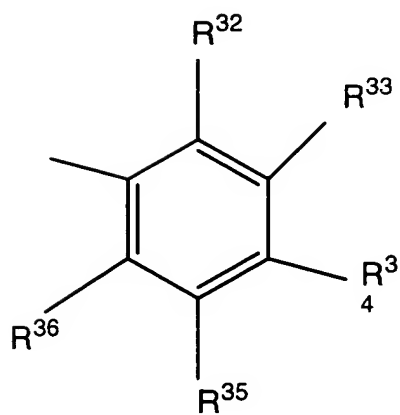
C_{1-6} -alkyl;

a and b are independently 1 or 2;

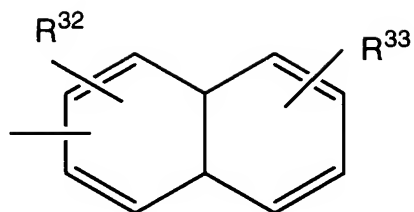
G is



J is

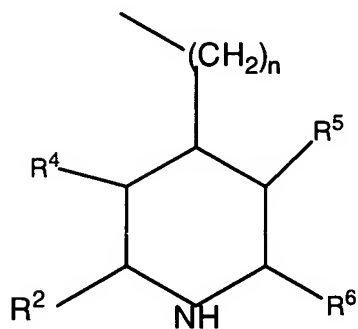


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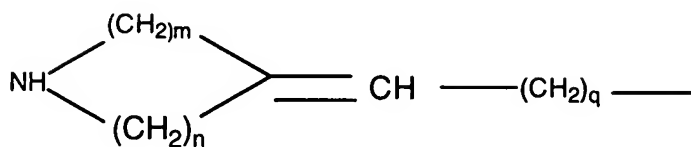


wherein R^{27} , R^{28} , R^{32} , R^{33} , R^{34} , R^{35} and R^{36} independently are hydrogen;

D is



or

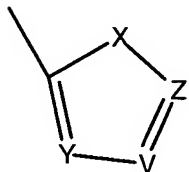


wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 , are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} -alkyl;

n, m and q are independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

when E is

-CONR¹²R¹³ or



wherein

X is -O-,

Z is -N=,

V is -C(R¹⁶)=

Y is -N=,

R¹⁶ is -(CH₂)_wR¹⁹;

R¹² R¹³ and R¹⁹ are independently hydrogen or C₁₋₆-alkyl

and w is independently 0, 1, 2 or 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein D is piperidin-4-ylidenyl or 2-methylpiperidin-4-yl.

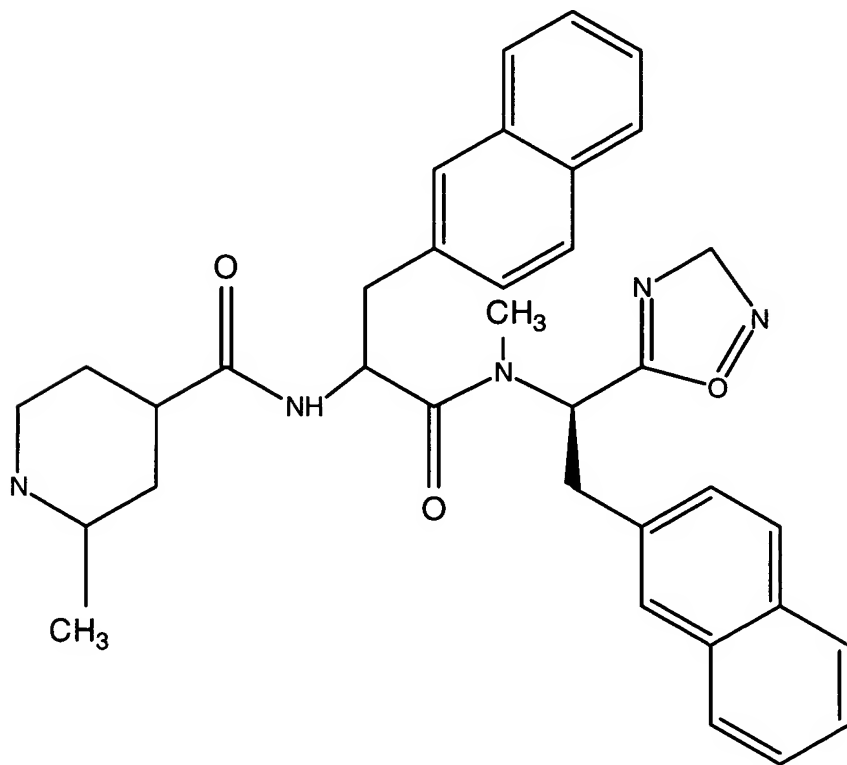
26. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein E is methylcarbamoyl or 3-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl.

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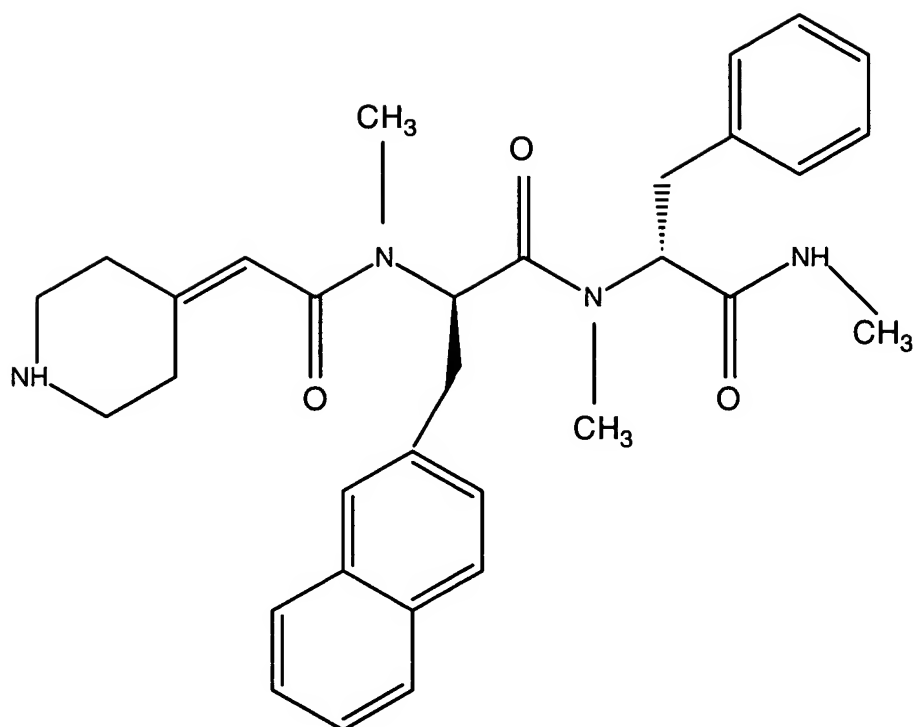
27. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein R^1 and R^2 independently are hydrogen, methyl or ethyl.

28. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein a and b independently are 1.

29. (new) The compound according to claim 24, wherein said compound is



or



30. (new) A method of increasing rate and extent of growth, improving milk and/or wool production and/or treating ailments in an animal resulting from a deficiency of growth hormone, the method comprising administering to said animal in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 25.

31. (new) A composition comprising a compound according to claim 25 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (new) The composition according to claim 31 in unit dosage form, comprising from about 10 to about 200 mg of said compound.

33. (new) The composition according to claim 31 for oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral administration.

34.(new) A method of stimulating the release of growth hormone from the pituitary, the

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method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 25.

35. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the effective amount of said compound is in the range of from about 0.0001 to about 100 mg/kg body weight per day.

36. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein said administration is carried out by the oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral route.

37. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the effective amount of said compound is in the range of from about 0.001 to about 50 mg/kg body weight per day.

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